

HUMAN EVENTS

30 July 1983

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE 6

THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM

Inside Washington



'Post' Ignores Story

Jackson Opposes Zablocki-Boland Bill

Sen. Henry Jackson made a significant break with his Democratic colleagues over on the House side last week, as he informed a day-long conference on Nicaragua that he opposes the Zablocki-Boland amendment to cut off all U.S. aid, both covert and overt, to the Nicaraguan guerrillas. The House is expected to take up Zablocki-Boland this week.

Asked by a HUMAN EVENTS reporter if he favored the amendment, Jackson stressed that the President "must have some flexibility in dealing with the problems" as they relate to Nicaragua. "To turn around and tie the hands of the President, especially at this point, is a mistake," he added. He also predicted that if it passed the House, it would not pass the Senate.

Jackson's significant comment, as well as the conference itself, was wholly ignored by the major daily in the nation's capital, the *Washington Post*, which has opposed covert aid to the Nicaraguan guerrillas.

In his keynote speech to the conference, which was sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee for

Democracy in Nicaragua, Jackson assailed the Sandinista regime for having broken its promises to respect human rights and hold national elections. Referring to the "theft of a revolution by a Leninist power grab," Jackson said the Sandinistas have created a regime that is under the influence of Cuba and the Soviet Union and which is threatening the rest of Central America.

"The destabilization of Central America threatens U.S. strategic interests in a much broader sense than many of us may recognize," Jackson said. "The oft-repeated figures on trade in the Caribbean and the importance of the sea lanes to resupplying Europe in a general mobilization have become familiar statistics. But think of what the destabilization of the whole Central American isthmus, including Mexico, could mean to our ability to meet our commitments around the world.

"Confronting hostile neighbors and the prospect of a flood of refugees," Jackson said, "any U.S. government would be faced with demands to bring our troops home from Europe and reduce our commitments in the Pacific. The credibility of our support for our friends in the Middle East could be eroded seriously."

The conference, which focused on the difference between what the Sandinistas had promised the Nicaraguan people and what has actually taken place, featured an extraordinary line-up of speakers, participants and sponsors. Representatives of virtually every sector of Nicaraguan society and liberals and conservatives in this country came together to try to focus public attention on the absence of democracy in Nicaragua and the resistance that is building against the Sandinista regime.

A morning session, addressed by Rep. Henry Hyde (R.-Ill.), featured speeches by several Nicaraguan exiles, including Humberto Belli, the former editorial director of the once-free newspaper of Nicaragua, *La Prensa*. They described in detail the Sandinista repression of the media, the political parties, the private sector and the church. And Teresa Bendana, a Nicaraguan educator, gave a fascinating account of how they are indoctrinating children through a Cuban-controlled educational system. The session was moderated mostly by Penn Kemble of the liberal Institute on Religion and Democracy.

An afternoon session, moderated by L. Francis Bouchey of the conservative Council for Inter-American Security, featured speeches by leaders of anti-Sandinista guerrilla groups such as Adolfo Calero of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front and Stedman Fagoth, leader of the Miskito Indian organization.

Recent Sandinista defector Miguel Bolanos, and Commandante Alejandro Montenegro, a former Salvadoran guerrilla leader, making a rare public appearance, discussed the Sandinista military threat to all of Central America.

In a luncheon address, U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick said the Sandinista revolution has been characterized by "violence and deception," but that it is not, as the Brezhnev doctrine would have us believe, irreversible.